

St John Fisher RC Primary School

Religious Education Policy



LOVE LEARN ACHIEVE

St John Fisher Mission Statement

The school, in partnership with parents, carers and with the parish of St John Fisher, offers to each one of its children a Catholic education centred on Christ, which enables them to grow in God's love, learning to be the best they can be in accordance with Christian values.

Approved by: Mrs. K. Blom

Date: July 2023

Last reviewed on: July 2023

Next review due by: July 2024

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Context Statement

The Mission Statement emphasises the duty of the school to educate the whole child. Religious Education and Collective Worship are essential for children's spiritual and moral development. RE also contributes to the growth of children's ability to form personal relationships and to their understanding of the curriculum as a whole.

The Mission Statement also makes it clear that responsibility for children's education is shared by parents, carers, school staff and governors and our parish. The RE programme in school refers constantly to these links, begins with children's religious home experiences and leads them towards awareness of their parishes and the wider role of the church in the world.

Aims of RE

At St John Fisher School it is our hope and aim to provide faith development and knowledge of religious matters for our children in a setting which is inspired by and seeks to live out the values of the Gospel, with Christ at the centre of all we do.

This we do by:

- providing a systematic presentation of the Catholic Faith
- providing opportunities for children to develop a personal relationship with God
- providing for our children the experience of belonging to a faith community
- enabling the children to become familiar with religious language, symbols, signs and gestures of prayer and liturgy
- helping children, to respect other faiths and to be aware of similarities and links between the Catholic faith and world faiths.

The school endeavours to help children understand that religion is not only for learning, but for living, and that all living can become religious.

The RE Curriculum

The programme used is 'Come and See', which complies fully with expectations of Religious Education Commission Department (RECD).

We have a whole school approach, where the same topic is being taught throughout. Cross curricular links are made when the opportunity presents itself.

Other material to be taught includes the liturgical year, major feast days, and devotions and aspects of the lives of some saints. Teaching about the Sacraments is carried out through Come and See but some aspects of Mass are also separately taught. The Sunday Gospel Readings are shared and reflected upon at whole school collective worship and again in class through the Wednesday Word and The Mark 10 Mission.

Recognition and respect for other faiths is addressed through the provision suggested in Come and See. Particular emphasis is given to the Jewish faith because of the shared scriptural tradition, and the closeness to Christianity. The Jewish faith is studied each year. A celebration of the Passover is organised by Year 5, this is to re-inforce what is studied in class and bring this old tradition to life. Islam is also studied each year due to our large Islamic Community local to our school. The school has established links with the Mosque in Morden and members of the Islamic Community are invited to talk to the children about Islam. Other world faiths and festivals are introduced and developed through whole school Collective Worship throughout the year.

Main Classroom Practices

All classes receive regular RE teaching. Most classes at present are being taught by Catholic teachers. Each class experiences a variety of teaching styles, including whole-class teaching, group or paired discussion and individual work including creative written work, art and drama. Children are encouraged to express their own ideas, develop concepts in their work, ask wondering questions and to make an individual response to the content of the lessons. The use of computing is encouraged in RE, and indeed is an integral part of the new 'Come and See' programme. Visitors are invited to talk to the pupils from first-hand experience about their particular vocation and experience relevant to the topic being studied.

Time allocation

RE lessons per week

EYFS	10% of teaching time
Y1 – Y2	2 hours 25 mins
Y3 – Y6	2 hours 35 mins

In all cases the total weekly time includes two or three lessons which equates to 10% of the teaching time.

Planning, Assessment and Recording

Planning: The themes and topics framework sets out the programme for the year. Within all classes, teachers develop activities for children of different abilities and learning styles. An overview of each topic is provided by the 'Come and See' programme, this forms the medium term plan. Phase groups meet at the start of each new topic to reflect on the shared themes and explore these plans together to ensure progression between year groups.

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teachers. They prepare carefully planned slides as the agreed planning format which are saved on the Google Drive. The slides outline the learning objectives for the 8 lessons. The Big question is central to the planning of each topic. We also use Southwark Diocesan End of Year Progress Descriptors to plan a topic to ensure progression and development of the 'driver words'. Teachers of parallel classes plan together to ensure continuity across the year group. All plans are seen by the RE Lead as required as part of the monitoring schedule. The children's learning is recorded in individual RE books, class big books or in their individual prayer journals.

Assessment:

Assessment is focused on the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In 'Come and See', it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Through the use of DRIVER words, assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do.

We follow and use the Southwark Diocesan End of Year Progress Descriptors which sets age related expectations (ARE) for each year group in two areas:

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Engagement and Response

Pupils are assessed as working below/towards/at/above ARE.

Informal assessment – This occurs continually in each lesson through questioning, observation and verbal feedback. Written RE work is reviewed by the Class teacher each lesson in line with our Marking and Feedback Policy. The 'Come and See' RE programme enables teachers to make effective use of ongoing informal assessment. Each topic makes links to the End of Year Progress Descriptors which take into account the breadth of ability for each year group.

The answering of planned review questions at the beginning of each lesson allows the pupils to demonstrate their developed knowledge and understanding at regular intervals throughout the topic. Teachers ask questions to challenge and stretch pupils to enable further assessment of individuals. Individual RE books are assessed as a record of the pupil's total achievement

within their RE lessons each term. Knowledge organisers are used for each topic for pupils to reflect on their learning. Pupils answer the Big Question at the beginning of each topic and then at the end and answers are compared, class teachers upload summative assessment data onto SIMS each term, which is then monitored and analysed by the RE Subject Leader and Senior Leadership Team. This data also forms part of Pupil Progress discussions each term.

Teachers regularly gather together during staff meetings to moderate samples of work against the Diocesan End of Year Progress Descriptors. Across the year, subject leaders within our local cluster gather to moderate samples of work and share good practice. This ensures a consistent approach to the assessment process.

Adaptation

It is recognised that children are at different stages of development and this is as true for RE as for other subjects.

Teachers meet individual needs by:

- varying the level of instruction, discussion and questioning so that each child may learn something from each lesson
- setting adapted or open-ended tasks drawing on a variety of skills so that each child may complete a satisfying piece of work or contribute to a group effort
- providing opportunities for children to use their knowledge from home or to rise to an intellectual or creative challenge
- valuing and affirming the individual responses of all children and commending children's performance for effort as well as achievement
- emphasising at all times the inclusive nature of the kingdom of God.

Feedback and Marking of Religious Education

At St John Fisher we believe that the feedback pupils receive directly and during their lessons has the most effective impact on their progress. This is particularly pertinent in RE where responses are often of a more personal and sensitive nature than for other curriculum areas.

The marking requirements for RE are as follows:

- All work must be code marked
- The spelling and Zero Tolerance must be followed (except where this may spoil work of a sensitive nature)
- Factual misconceptions to be corrected
- A comment to guide reflection to be made for appropriate extended pieces
- A challenging question will be written in response to work at least twice throughout a topic

Children are encouraged to do their best and are reminded that any targets set for writing apply to all pieces of writing in R E.

Links between Home, School and Parish

Information is given to parents about the topics to be studied each term. Parents receive a termly newsletter, which is downloaded from the Diocese of Southwark's Website. Parents also receive a weekly school newsletter which keeps them informed about events happening in the school as well as the church. The newsletter also has a copy of the Wednesday Word shared in school.

Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress in RE through annual reports, at Open Evenings or informally with the class teacher if there is any uncertainty or question. Children are encouraged to bring articles from home and to include members of their family in class prayers.

The Parish Clergy pays regular visits to classes. They contribute to the RE curriculum, by giving specialist input e.g. on the Sacraments or the life of a priest and the parts of the Mass. Children from our school are also involved in the Sunday Liturgy as well as Easter and Christmas Liturgies.

In Y3 the children are being prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Their class teachers are kept informed of the programme being followed in St John Fisher Parish. The work done in school during this year supports and complements that of Catechists and parents. The school is represented at the initial meetings of parents in St John Fisher Parish. Priests and Catechists from St John Fisher Parish are invited to the

Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in school in July. The school organises parts of the Liturgy for the three Masses and KS2 children represent the school at these Masses.
Year 4 children act as prayer partners to the Y3 First Holy Communion children.

St John Fisher is very much the Parish School and as such has a part to play in all the events of the Parish, a role the school embraces with great enthusiasm and success.